

GIVING THOUGHTS

Planning Today For Clearbrook Tomorrow

Family Home Becomes Home to a New Clearbrook Family

A year and a half ago, Clearbrook held a very special Open House for a new CILA house, and the four women who live there had the opportunity to give their families tours of their home. A highlight for the more than 90 attendees was seeing the bedrooms, each one specially decorated for its occupant. The CILA was donated by the late Patricia and Donald F. Hoeg, and 17 of their relatives were able to be there to celebrate the Hoegs' gift, reminisce about the past, and wish the new residents well.

Pat and Don Hoeg raised five children (Tom, Bob, Don, Mary and Susie, a current Clearbrook client) in the Mount Prospect home. The siblings recall a dynamic place where good times, love, and acceptance happily coexisted. One of their sons, Don, Jr., shared, "When we moved into our house in 1964, it came alive with energy and laughter. Even after we all grew up, our parents never wanted to live anywhere else. The house was their special place. It had character, like a member of the family."

Now, with the new residents all moved in, the home has "come alive again" and the Hoeg children couldn't be happier. Don and Pat had discussed the possibility of donating their home in the future, and to honor their parents the siblings decided to follow through and give it to Clearbrook. To the siblings' delight, Clearbrook transformed it into a bright, comfortable and highly functional living space for the women. "We have such great memories of living there, and it's amazing to see how beautifully Clearbrook renovated the house and tailored it for these clients," Don said. "They will build memories



The Hoeg Family

here just like our family did. There is no question our parents would wholeheartedly approve."

During their lifetime, Don and Pat taught their children the importance of giving back, leading by example. "They were interested in many causes, but they were truly passionate about Clearbrook because they had experienced firsthand the impact their services have on people's lives," Don explained. "Susie has lived in her CILA for 17 years. Clearbrook has given our sister a full life, and it enriched our parents' life as well. They especially enjoyed knowing and working with the incredible people who are members of the Clearbrook Guardians Organization. They were so grateful to Clearbrook for all it did for Susie, and so they were tireless in their volunteer efforts in support of its clients and programs."

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Planning Brings Peace of Mind

There are many reasons to have an estate plan—the most welcome of which might be the peace of mind it provides.

Imagine knowing exactly how your assets will be divided once you no longer need them. Imagine making specific provisions for family members and other loved ones and knowing they will be taken care of. And imagine knowing your loved ones will not have to deal with unnecessary delays or difficult legal proceedings when carrying out your wishes. A well-thought-out estate plan offers these benefits and many more.

Not to plan *is* to plan

As we look into the future, planning our lives naturally becomes more challenging. Estate and

financial plans can easily get lost in the shuffle and all too often be put off until it is too late. But not planning becomes a plan.

Include charitable gifts

Charitable gifts included as part of your long-range estate and financial planning can offer a wonderful way to provide lasting support to organizations like Clearbrook. You may be able to make your gift of a lifetime while possibly minimizing taxes and settlement costs and conserving more of your estate for loved ones.

Start today

If you don't have an estate plan in place, or if you haven't reviewed your plans recently, there's no reason to wait. The relatively small amount of time it takes to make or update an estate plan seems even smaller when you consider the benefits to you, your loved ones and the charitable organizations that are close to your heart.

Family Home *Continued from Page 1*

To make a truly special event even more so, the Open House was celebrated on what would have been Don and Pat Hoeg's 65th wedding anniversary. "We were euphoric about everything that day! The whole family was on cloud nine," Don stated. "We thought back to when Susie was able to move into a home like this, and how grateful we were as a family, and still are. To be able to help do that for someone else's family is so exciting."

"I hope more people will consider making a gift like this," Don continued. "It's very satisfying to know our home is in great hands, and to see it continue as a working representation of our parents' values. The home is a wonderful legacy to our parents, who always gave so much to others."



Erin, a resident at the CILA house featured on page 1, enjoys time with family and friends

Maximize Your Giving with Appreciated Securities

Making a gift to Clearbrook using stocks, bonds and certain mutual funds that have risen in value since you have owned them can make good financial sense. If you have owned the stocks for more than one year, you are entitled to an income tax deduction based on the current value of the stock, not the lower price you paid for it.

By using appreciated securities to make your gift, you bypass any capital gains tax that would be due on a sale, and your income tax deduction will be based on the full value of the securities. It is even possible to use securities to fund a giving plan that will provide an income for life to you or another person you choose. We would be happy to speak to you and your advisors about how to complete your gift.

Is a Will Necessary?

Q. Do I need a will if my estate is fairly small?

A. Not having a will can sometimes lead to delays in settling the state-made will. Delays usually mean added expense, so it is important to settle a small estate quickly. With a well-planned will, delays can be minimized, thus savings more of your estate assets for your beneficiaries.

Q. I own most of my property jointly with my spouse. Is it necessary to go to the trouble and expense of making a will?

A. Joint ownership can be a poor substitute for a will. It is best to use joint ownership in conjunction with a will to ensure your property will be distributed as you wish.

Q. How do people usually make charitable bequests?

A. Some friends name us as final beneficiaries to receive whatever is left in their estate after other beneficiaries have been provided for. Others designate a percentage of the assets in their estate for charitable use or to give a certain dollar amount or specific property.

Q. Aren't charitable bequests made mainly by people who have no close relatives or whose estate are so large that there is plenty left over?

A. Even modest estates today are larger than the average estate of past generations. More people find it possible to make a "gift of a lifetime" through their estate after they know the needs of loved ones are met.



Leave a Special Legacy to Clearbrook

Remembering Clearbrook in your will or trust is a wonderful way to ensure that we can continue to provide for people with disabilities into the future.

It is also easy to name Clearbrook as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance policy or bank account. It is as simple as filling out a beneficiary designation form with your bank or policy or plan provider.

**Our legal name is:
Clearbrook**

**Our tax I.D. number is:
36-2420176**



A Gift with Real Appeal

Owning real estate has long been a part of the "American Dream." Whether it is a first home, a place to vacation or an investment property, real estate can be a valuable asset.

Many of our friends, like the Hoegs on Page 1, have found that real estate can also make an appealing charitable gift to Clearbrook.

Consider these questions:

- Do you have real estate that is not mortgaged and has increased in value since you purchased?
- Do you have property that is no longer needed for personal use?
- Do you need additional income now or in the future?
- Do you want to make a charitable gift to Clearbrook as part of your long-range financial plans?

There are numerous benefits—both immediate and future—to making a gift of real estate. Through various methods, you may be able to arrange a source of supplemental retirement income or even enjoy immediate tax savings from a gift of property.

We would be happy to talk to you and your advisors about how you can include a gift of real estate to Clearbrook in your plans.

Creating a Supplemental Needs/Special Needs Trust

Planning for the future care of a disabled child can present real challenges. Leaving assets outright in your will may cause the complete loss of government help. This usually means losing all Medicaid and other social services.

What should you do? A good solution is often to create a Special or Supplemental Needs Trust (SNT). A SNT lets you make provisions for a loved one with no loss of Medicaid or other benefits. It is also quite flexible. You decide what is best for your loved one and choose who should make decisions about their care in the future. This might be a sibling, family member or even a charitable institution.

If a special needs person self-funds the SNT, any assets left in the trust can be “taken back” by Medicaid. However, if family or friends fund the SNT, this rule does not apply. In other words, there is no requirement to repay Medicaid.

When your special needs child or grandchild no longer needs the SNT, funds can go to a charity of your choosing.



The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. © Copyright 2017 by Sharpe Group. All Rights Reserved. NWX-17



For more information on ways to include Clearbrook in your estate plans, please return the enclosed reply card or call Kelly McGraw at (847) 385-5014.

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Memorial and tribute gifts can be arranged in a variety of ways and at any time—birthdays, anniversaries, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, graduation—whenever you would like to establish a loving remembrance that symbolizes your admiration and respect in an especially relevant way.

Is there someone special you would like to honor in a meaningful way? Simply call us for more information. We would be happy to suggest ideas that can result in a thoughtful gift that will provide a lasting remembrance.

